

# New York Herald

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## WAS THE BOY MURDERED?

### IMPORTANT EVIDENCE COMES TO LIGHT

THE LONG BRANCH CORNER'S JURY SAID IT WAS SUICIDE—THE BOY HAS SINCE BEEN IDENTIFIED.

The body of a well-dressed boy was found on the beach north of the ocean pier at Long Branch on August 16. He had been choked to death by a string, which was fastened to a rope holding a fishing boat. Every one who read the accounts as published no doubt felt surprised when a verdict of death by suicide was given a few days afterward by a local coroner's jury. However, the boy was unknown and all clues seemed lacking, so that the affair was soon forgotten by the public. The case was, however, reopened last week when two women came to the Long Branch morgue and proved that the boy was their brother. His name was George Will, and he resided at No. 138 East Eighty-seventh-st. He was a baker by trade, and had not been in this country long. The peculiarity surrounding the case and the verdict is enhanced on investigation, and the result of The Tribune's investigation is given herewith. A. Erickson, who is on his mettle on account of the flimsy way in which his testimony was received by the Long Branch officials, gave valuable aid in the investigation, together with his brother-in-law, W. H. Dubois, of No. 740 Lafayette-ave., Brooklyn.

On Sunday night, August 16, at about half-past 9 o'clock, a Swedish fisherman named Krustean Jorgeson Winder Hansen, employed by John Gaskin & Co., walked along the strip of beach at the foot of the bluff about half a mile north of the pier at Long Branch. One of Gaskin & Co.'s fishing boats, a large clinker-built surfboat, which is used by the fishermen employed by the firm to raise the pound-nets which are set at a short distance from the shore, was hauled up close to the foot of the bluff, which is about fifteen feet high at that point. It was fastened to a stake on the top of the bank by means of a rope running through a pulley block. The rail which runs along the edge of the bluff is here broken by an inclined way leading to the beach, which is used by the fishermen for hauling up their catch.

When the Swede got to the boat he was startled by seeing a human body partly suspended by a thin string, which was fastened to the rope holding the boat. It was that of a boy about sixteen years old. The string was so long that the body almost lay on the beach. Had the boy merely laid himself on his knees he could not possibly have strangled. The body was at once out of the water and was hurried to the office of Mr. Bearmore, the undertaker, who also keeps the morgue at Long Branch. The boy was still warm when it was brought there, and Dr. J. W. Taylor, who had been hastily summoned, tore open the clothes and worked hard for a long while trying to bring the lad back to life. But all his efforts proved vain, and at last he had to give up, and acknowledge that the boy was dead. Who he was, or when he had arrived at Long Branch, no one knew. He was dressed in a suit of dark plaid, and in his pockets were \$1.50, and a piece of the same string with which he had been strangled. There was also a brown plaid handkerchief, with blue border, marked "J. W."

On Tuesday, August 18, an inquest was held by Coroner Van Dyke, and the verdict of the Coroner's jury was that the boy had committed suicide. That there were no marks of violence on the body was apparently the only reason for this verdict. The many reasons which would naturally suggest themselves to almost any thoughtful man evidently did not appeal to this jury, the coroner, or the captain of police. They seem to attach little weight to the consideration that only rarely do boys kill themselves, or that if he had been abnormally constituted or so deeply troubled as to resort to suicide, it would appear the simplest thing for the boy to have thrown himself into the sea, which was only a few yards from where his body was found.

But acknowledging that he intended to commit suicide, and also that he proposed to achieve his end by hanging himself, seems utterly incredible that he should have used it in the theory of suicide, and that it is simply astonishing to any person of common-sense that apparently no attention was paid to it; in fact, it seems as if it had been for some reason or other, conveniently ignored. This was the positive statement of four trustworthy witnesses, to the effect that the boy had been seen by them only three hours before he was found dead, in company with another person, who has never been seen or heard of since. What difference did this evidence make to the officials at Long Branch? Apparently none. The four witnesses say that they were "pooch-pooched." They were not asked to testify at the inquest, and the machinery of Long Branch law ran smoothly and swiftly, brought in an inductive verdict of suicide, the boy was buried, and that, it was supposed, ended the affair. Another New-Jersey mystery was added to the many which have remained unexplained, and in time oblivion would have covered the case had it not been for new and unexpected developments.

On Thursday, September 10, there came to Long Branch two young German girls. One was Hannah Will, of No. 79 Market-st., Newark, N. J., and the other was Mary Will, of No. 347 Warren-st., Newark. They went to the morgue and said their brother, George Will, had been missing since August 16. They not only minutely described the clothes he had worn, even to a cheap scarf which the boy had in his tie, but also produced a photograph which was immediately recognized by the undertaker, Bearmore, as being that of the dead boy. The identification was complete without the shadow of a doubt. Hannah Will had read the account of the case had it not been for new and unexpected developments.

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August 16. They are all well known in Long Branch. Their story is that at about 7 o'clock that evening, when all bathers had left the place and they were about ready to look up the place and go, two people came down to bathing. They were a boy and a girl, and the boy, who was a man perhaps twenty-five or thirty years old, their arrival at such an unusually late hour caused the four men to notice them peculiarly. But another circumstance impressed the appearance of both on their minds. When Mr. Erickson caught sight of the boy, his first impulse was to give him a playful slap on the back, as he mistook him for a boy named Mullin, a private apprentice at Long Branch, so striking was the resemblance between them.

The two came to the window of the bathroom, and asked for bathing suits. On their being delivered, the man told the boy to pay for them, as he had no money. The boy then pulled out a roll of bills to pay for the suits, but put the money back into his pocket, and offered some other means of payment. The four men then left the bathroom, leaving the two in the water, after cautioning them against going out too far, as the undertaker would be waiting for them. The man, and wouldn't venture far into the water. They remained in the water till about 8 p. m., probably, and then dressed and went up the steps to the bluff. The man, who had a good time, told the four fishermen that the body of the boy about half a mile north of the bathing place, as already related.

These four men are positive that the boy who was found on the beach was the same who went bathing with the stranger that night are identical. They all saw the body the next day, and recognized it at once. The man, who had a good time, told the four fishermen that the body of the boy about half a mile north of the bathing place, as already related.

But, Mr. Bearmore, the undertaker and morgue-keeper, told the reporter, in answer to his questions, that it was clearly a case of suicide, and that the police could not find any evidence of a struggle. He also said that a small pool of blood had gathered in the sand under the boy's head, and that the blood was fresh. He thought that this proved that the boy had died in the place where he was found, and had not been carried there. But, Mr. Bearmore, the undertaker and morgue-keeper, told the reporter, in answer to his questions, that it was clearly a case of suicide, and that the police could not find any evidence of a struggle.

The general impression at Long Branch is that the boy was murdered, and that the authorities did not investigate the matter properly. The boy was found on the beach, and the string was fastened to a rope holding a fishing boat. The boy was found on the beach, and the string was fastened to a rope holding a fishing boat.

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## THE BOSSSES FIXING IT UP.

### A CONFERENCE OF THE DEMOCRATIC MASTERS IN ALBANY.

CROKER, MURPHY, SHEEHAN AND GRANT SEND GOVERNOR HILL TO THE REAR—TAMMANY HALL WANTS A GOVERNOR—BROOKLYN'S BIG DELEGATION TO SARATOGA.

Saratoga, Sept. 13.—The masters of the Democratic party in this State met in Albany to-day, and of course, with the aim of relieving the Democratic State Convention of all trouble when it meets on Tuesday, prepared a party platform and decided who are to be the companions upon the Democratic State ticket of Roswell P. Flower, Tammany Hall's candidate for Governor. It is a long time since Tammany Hall has had a candidate for Governor; ever since John T. Hoffman was counted in by the repeaters of the organization in 1870. The public memory is long as to the gigantic thefts of William M. Tweed and other leaders of the Hall then, and therefore its strenuous support of Mr. Flower has been kept in the background purposely. With a Tammany Hall Governor once inaugurated and a golden prospect opened of mighty raids upon the treasury of the richest city upon the continent, the Tammany Hall leaders will not be so restrained in speech as they have been the past six months, while Mr. Flower's nomination was in process of being "fixed" by them in secret.

The present masters of the Democratic party in this State, all of whom attended the conference in Albany to-day, are Richard Croker and Hugh J. Grant, of New-York; Edward Murphy, Jr., of Troy, and William F. Sheehan, of Buffalo. Messrs. Croker and Grant control Tammany Hall in New-York, while Mr. Murphy and Mr. Sheehan have each created strong Democratic organizations in their own cities. It is by Tammany Hall methods extended through the State that Mr. Flower will be nominated, and it is by Tammany Hall that he will be ruled. There was another man present at the conference of these Democratic chiefs in Albany, namely, David R. Hill, but he was there to follow the procession and not to lead it. Messrs. Murphy, Grant, Croker and Sheehan were the actual commanders. Mr. Hill has been deposed by his former lieutenants. It is they who will nominate Mr. Flower, and not Mr. Hill.

HILL DISTURBED BY FLOWER. There is reason for believing that Mr. Hill distrusts Mr. Flower, and fears that he will become a candidate for President if elected Governor. It would therefore be to Mr. Hill's interest to defeat the nomination of Mr. Flower as a possible rival for the Presidency. But Mr. Hill's lieutenants quietly undermined their chief and gained so much support for Mr. Flower that Mr. Hill "made a virtue of necessity" and said he also favored Mr. Flower's nomination. But until Mr. Flower has been nominated, Democratic politicians will look out for some movement by Mr. Hill which will defeat the former's nomination. It can be stated also, upon authority, that Mr. Flower himself has shared this suspicion of Mr. Hill's friendship, and has been careful in speaking about the convention to friends to use this phrase: "If I shall be nominated." But whatever Mr. Hill's private judgment about the wisdom of nominating Mr. Flower, he kept his views to himself at the council table to-day. Messrs. Murphy, Grant, Sheehan and Croker substantially said: "We intend to nominate Flower for Governor," and Mr. Hill acquiesced in the expression of their will.

To-day also, according to report, he had the sobering experience of having the members of this junta disregard his will in the matter of the nomination for Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Hill, it is said, when Mr. Sheehan was not present, advocated the abandonment of the latter as a candidate for Lieutenant-Governor. This was a cold-blooded proceeding upon Mr. Hill's part, when one remembers that Mr. Sheehan has been laboring hard for the past four months in Buffalo to defend Mr. Hill's interests there and thus risked damaging his own future political career by executing this work for Mr. Hill. Mr. Sheehan arrived in Albany to-day, and visited Governor Hill at the Executive Mansion. There he evidently discovered that Governor Hill was intending treacherously to oppose his being nominated for Lieutenant-Governor. At any rate, Mr. Sheehan, who is a man of quick resolution, jumped into a hack and drove to Troy. There he found Edward Murphy, Jr., and brought him to Albany. Mr. Sheehan informed Mr. Murphy, it is reported, of the facts of the situation. He might be said to have told Mr. Murphy, "I stand upon the edge of a precipice so far as this nomination for Lieutenant-Governor is concerned. Mr. Hill is preparing to push me over. You only can rescue me."

MURPHY GOES TO SHEEHAN'S RESCUE. Mr. Murphy has a warm heart. He went to the Executive Mansion unaccompanied by Mr. Sheehan and there, it is said, in talk with Governor Hill insisted upon the nomination of Mr. Sheehan for Lieutenant-Governor. "Why couldn't you break the young man's heart now to nominate him now after what he has done to earn this nomination?" Then Mr. Sheehan, Murphy, Croker and Grant.

But Mr. Sheehan's friends here are distrustful of Governor Hill still, and say that he plainly goes to be hostile to Sheehan and must be keenly watched. Mr. Sheehan has telegraphed to his friends here that he will be a candidate before the convention for Lieutenant-Governor, whether he wins or loses. This indicates unmistakably that he will go before the convention, even if Governor Hill openly opposes his nomination. It is said that the conversation between Governor Hill, Mr. Sheehan and Mr. Murphy about Sheehan's nomination for Lieutenant-Governor was of a most exciting description. Mr. Sheehan's friends here denounce the Governor for treachery. They say that proof has just reached them that Governor Hill sent for Assemblyman Charles P. McCalland, of Westchester County, and urged him to become a candidate for Lieutenant-Governor against Mr. Sheehan. They also say that it was a direct act of hostility upon Governor Hill's part to Mr. Sheehan to permit Charles E. Peck, the Commissioner of Labor Statistics, to become a candidate for Lieutenant-Governor.

FIXING UP THE SLATE FOR THE DELEGATES. Mayor Grant arrived in Albany from New-York last night, and registered at the Delevan House. Shortly afterward Richard Croker arrived there from Richmond Springs. Then came Mr. Sheehan from Buffalo this morning. He brought Mr. Murphy to Albany from Troy a little later. The members of the conference, therefore, at the Executive Mansion this afternoon were Governor Hill, Spenser Sheehan, Edward Murphy, Jr., Richard Croker and Hugh J. Grant. The nomination especially under consideration at the conference, it is said, was that for Attorney-General. There are two strong candidates for this nomination: Simon W. Rosendale, of Albany, and Isaac H. Maynard, of Stamford, at present Deputy Attorney-General and member of the Statutory Revision Commission. The Governor pressed upon those at the conference the nomination of Mr. Maynard for Attorney-General. The nomination was opposed by Mr. Murphy upon the ground that Mr. Maynard had bitterly opposed the liquor interests when an Assemblyman, and had, as a result of this opposition, been defeated by them when a candidate for Secretary of State in 1883. He thought it a risky nomination to make. What was worse, it would alienate the liquor dealers, who had supported the Demo-

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## CRATIC STATE TICKET LOYALTY FOR SIX YEARS PAST, AS THE GOVERNOR WOULD HAVE IT.

Richard Croker said, it is reported, that Tammany Hall looked favorably upon the candidacy of Mr. Rosendale. He was an eminent lawyer and also one of the leading Hebrews of the State. He would receive a large vote from his co-religionists all over the State. If he were nominated he could be elected. Why run a risk with Maynard?

Then Mr. Hill is reported to have suggested another candidate for Attorney-General, namely, Senator McNaughton, of Rochester. On Friday last, as related in The Tribune of to-day, the Governor sent for Senator McNaughton. Mr. McNaughton arrived in Albany yesterday and had a long talk with Mr. Hill. At the conference, it is said, Hill, after suggesting that McNaughton should be nominated for Attorney-General, made the assumption that McNaughton's support of Mr. Hill in Rochester, which was the home of William A. Sutherland, the Republican candidate for Attorney-General. It was obvious that Sutherland was a strong supporter of the Republican ticket on both sides. Mr. Hill was suspected that he was bent upon Rochester to keep down his vote. It was also said that McNaughton did not desire to run for Senator again in the Senate District of Rochester, but it is suspected that it met with considerable opposition, owing to the fact that Mr. Rosendale is so strongly supported for Attorney-General by Tammany Hall.

It is said that at the conference an agreement was reached to support Frank Rice for Secretary of State, Elliot Danforth for Controller, Treasurer, and Frank Campbell for Comptroller. The 394 delegates to the Democratic State Convention will please come here and ratify the action of the junta. It would seem therefore that the Democratic ticket is likely to be as follows: For Governor, Roswell P. Flower, of Tammany Hall, New-York; Lieutenant-Governor, William F. Sheehan, of Buffalo; Secretary of State, Frank Rice, of Canastota; Controller, Frank Campbell, of Bath; Treasurer, Elliot Danforth; Attorney-General, Simon W. Rosendale, of Albany; and Comptroller, Frank Campbell, of Bath. The delegates to the State Convention also arrived in Albany and began looking for Campbell for Controller. Mr. Campbell himself arrived from Bath, and on visiting Governor Hill, he assured the governor's guests that a large number of friends of Senator McNaughton, of Rochester, also arrived and insisted upon his going upon the State ticket for some place.

Well P. Flower, who will manage the latter's canvass here to-morrow. Mr. Griffin, it is said, had exerted from him pledges that Mr. Flower, if elected Governor, will not disturb any men appointed to office by Governor Hill. Mr. Griffin is confident of the nomination of Mr. Flower upon the first ballot and came away from Governor Hill and from the press of Messrs. Murphy and Sheehan in high good humor.

In the course of this series of conferences at the Executive Mansion in Albany, it is declared, the delegates to the State Convention were drawn up and substantially adopted. What the silver plank will say, no one seems to know. Few of the delegates to the convention arrived to-day. The delegates from the County of New-York, leader of the County Democracy, Mr. Power, inquired diligently about the plans of Tammany Hall to count on delegates from New-York except its own. He learned that Commissioner of Public Works Gilroy had said that Tammany demanded all the representation from New-York. Under the representation, from New-York, the delegates to the convention would walk out of the convention. Mr. Power says that the County Democracy will have a large delegation here from New-York.

Police Commissioner John R. Voorhis, of New-York, the leader of the County Democracy, is reported to have demanded half the representation of New-York for his organization, or thirty-six delegates. Politicians say that the Voorhis delegation will be lucky if they get twenty delegates. Some say that the representation of Tammany Hall will be increased, but that the County Democracy will not be wholly annihilated, since the rural delegates seemed to be drawn up in accordance to Tammany Hall.

KINGS COUNTY'S ANGRY PROTEST. The Kings County Democrats evidently are coming here to make an angry remonstrance against the setting aside of Chapin as a candidate for Governor. The proprietors of the various hotels state that 700 rooms have been engaged for the accommodation of the Brooklyn pilgrims. This is the largest number that has ever been leased for any convention. It will be the greatest demonstration ever made at a Democratic State Convention by a political organization. Moreover, the Brooklyn delegation will contain the smartest politicians in the Democratic party in Brooklyn. It will also be a representative delegation, since Democrats like General Henry W. Seymour, who is not connected with the "regular" organization, have been elected as delegates. Yet it is hard to see what this multitude can do, except to howl in opposition to the nomination of Roswell P. Flower, for they have no votes for Chapin out of Kings County. The nomination of Mr. Chapin will be made by William C. De Witt, of Brooklyn, who, it is said, will use some very plain language in opposition to Mr. Flower's nomination. The advance guard of the Brooklyn delegation arrived here to-day. This advance guard consists of Mr. Sheelin and Herman McGraw, who are so well known to the Brooklyn Democrats, above all men, of "Boss" McLaughlin. Mr. Sheelin exhibited a warlike spirit to-day. He wished to have the following statement from himself read out:

"The delegation of Kings County comes here for the purpose of standing up and being counted in opposition to Roswell P. Flower. We wish the State of New-York to be governed by a man who will not be responsible for Mr. Flower's nomination, or for the result of that nomination." Plainly there are knives and daggers in the speech of Mr. Sheelin. News from various counties of the State indicate that the following will probably be members of the Democratic State Convention: 1st District, William Gleason, of Suffolk; 2d, James McLaughlin, of Dutchess; 3d, John C. O'Brien, of Albany; 4th, Samuel C. Fields, of Dutchess; 5th, Charles Barham, of Albany; 6th, James T. Tilden, of Albany; 7th, James T. Tilden, of Albany; 8th, James T. Tilden, of Albany; 9th, James T. Tilden, of Albany; 10th, James T. Tilden, of Albany; 11th, James T. Tilden, of Albany; 12th, James T. Tilden, of Albany; 13th, James T. Tilden, of Albany; 14th, James T. Tilden, of Albany; 15th, James T. 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